

BCM

A Belgian J-culture Magazine

Nr 13: July - August 2013

Interviews

Muddy Apes

THE SOUND BEE HD

GoldLeather

Fashion

Fairy-kei
feature and
article

Exclusive photo
feature:

Helcanen in Japan

CALMANDO QUAL

Exclusive interview and concert report

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Forum of the Belgian Cupcakes Lolita fashion group:

<http://belgiancupcakes.proboards.com>

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 12th edition already of BCM, and as you can see from the page count, BCM is still growing, despite of this edition having been made in full exams season! In spite of midterms, exams, presentations and hectic jobs, the BCM crew still managed to pull together and edition that's our biggest so far! A huge thank you to all my contributors for making this edition possible!

And in this biggest edition we have a feature of a very summery J-fashion: fairy-kei as well as a Tokyo shop review of TETRAGRAMMATON and GoldLeather! Our awesome and talented photographer Helcanen went to Japan for a month, and contributed a brilliant feature showing the country like you won't see it in a travel guide. And of course, Agnes is back with her excellent and super interesting column about a Belgian's adventures in Japan and tells us more about life in the land of the rising sun.

I hope everyone who had exams and the like did well, for those with resists, I wish you all the very best of luck with those and a great result at the end of that hell. Of course I wish you all a fantastic summer and I hope you'll enjoy this edition! We'll be back in two month's time, as always, with our Halloween edition!

Hilde Heyvaert
Editor in chief



WITH SUMMER APPROACHING AND PASTELS BEING HIT COLOURS FOR THE SUMMER, IT'S HIGH TIME TO TALK ABOUT **FAIRY-KEI**, A JAPANESE FASHION STYLE DEFINITELY SUITED TO NICE AND WARM WEATHER.

In the Western world Fairy-kei may be losing some of its initial popularity due to the rise of *Cult Party kei* but in Japan, as is proof from the many snaps of well-known street style bloggers such as *Japanese Streets* and *Tokyo Fashion*, it's still going strong. In this article we will attempt to explain the basics of the pastel 80s style so you, dear reader, can go run with it and above all: have fun wearing it!

Fairy-kei is best described as cuteness overload meets the 1980ties pop culture kawaii with icons such as, to name but a few, *My Little Pony* (which may be substituted with the easier to find new version *My Little Pony Friendship is Magic*), *Popples* (both 80s originals and the modern rerelease), *Snorks*, *Carebears*, *Disney* characters (even those from after 1989 provided they have the right colours and are cute enough or match your outfit), *Strawberry Shortcake*, and assorted cute cartoon characters and icons. If it's 80ties and adorable, you're pretty much good to go.

The **outfits** are composed of a vast majority of pastels. A brighter colour may be thrown into the mix, provided that the integrity of the style is left alone, be careful with the amount though, too much *technicolor* has no room in Fairy-kei and is left for the *Decora* fashion style. Black and darker colours are never used with Fairy-kei unless they are subtly part of a cute print in e.g. legwear.

Garments consist of overall shorts in light shades of denim or pastels or dungaree dresses in the same tones.

Frisly skirts or petticoats (make sure they're not too sheer, you don't want see-through bottoms!) in pastels, which may be plain or covered in cute or 80s prints.

Pastel or very light coloured Kodona shorts are also excellent, just like those cute very short shorts in pastel colours or light denims. If you think those are too short for you personally but you still want normal shorts rather than Kodona style ones, you can always take a pair of jeans and either turn them into shorts or simply wear them as cut-offs.

Talking sweaters and tops: think pastels and think adorable. You can wear anything from cute camisoles, tank tops, t-shirts (with or without pouf sleeves), *Sweet Lolita* cutsews, pastel coloured long sleeved tops or sport style sweaters as those were also popular in the 80ties. Just make sure your top matches your bottoms and it's all good!

Footwear isn't subjected to very strict rules either: cute sneakers in pastel colours or beige, be they platform, chunky, skater or simply *Chucks*, it's all good. An alternative to this is pastel coloured Lolita footwear. On occasion pastel coloured or white *Doc Martens*, engineer boots or similar styles of shoes have been seen in the Japanese street snaps, so whilst those are far from common place with this style, you can wear them if boots are your thing. Shoes, whatever the kind, are often paired with legwarmers in pastels, beige or white, or occasionally if the outfit allows it, a brighter colour.

Other legwear of course includes plain white or pastel tights, with or without matching cute or 80s style print, *Sweet Lolita* style knee or over the knee socks or cute lace socks.





Accessories are heavy on the 80ties influences, always in colours that match your outfit, but they don't need to be pastel. Lolita bags and wristcuffs can be used here, as well as hair bows. Also popular are 80ties style hair bows tied with a small scarf, pastel scrunchies, brooches out of cartoon icons, buttons with cute prints and assorted bits and bobs.

Hats aren't that common, but a baseball cap in pastels or with an 80s cartoon character are not unheard of, just like plush animal eared hats with pom-pom ear flaps. Scarves are generally some kind of plush or faux fur stole, but if you can't get your hands on those and it's cold, a pastel or plain white scarf works just as well. The same goes for gloves and hats for those that want to wear Fairy-kei in winter or colder climes, if you can't find any plush hats that suit the style (such as Disney character earflap hats), a woollen variety in the right colouration does the trick just as well.

Glasses, whether they are fake or prescription, are often used as well, in either colours that match the outfit and always in a nerdy or retro style such as big squared geek glasses, rounded nerd glasses or butterfly frames.

Jacket and coat wise you can of course go for a pastel Sweet Lolita coat, a light or pastel (denim) jacket or coat that looks sufficiently 80ties, or one of those faux fur jackets in white, beige or pastels. And of course a cardigan also helps to keep you warm when necessary.

I know we emphasised on the summer at the beginning of the article, but you effectively can wear Fairy-kei all year 'round.

A word of advice though, if you plan on wearing it outside summer, then make sure to stock up on garments and accessories whilst it's popular in summer or on the high street, that will make your life much easier afterwards. Best to always shop when it's affordable if you're on a budget. This avoids having to import from Japan if money is tight.

Like with the rest of the style, hairstyles are incredibly varied, going from big Sweet Lolita style wigs in pastel colours to natural hair (which-ever colour that may be), 80s hairstyles or simply worn loose. If you don't want to wear anything in your hair, that's fine too, casual Fairy-kei is still Fairy-kei.

Of course it is vital that you make sure that your pastel shades match each other, this goes without saying, but all in all the main rule to Fairy-kei is: if it's pastel and 80s cute, you're doing it right, which makes it one of the more liberal and easy going Japanese styles.

Japanese street fashion styles often develop **fusion styles**, mixes with other street fashions if you will, this is less the case with Fairy-kei. Whilst it is true that they often take elements from Sweet Lolita, such as footwear, skirts, salopette skirts, socks and accessories, there's no real fusion between the two, but there's rather a cross-over of elements of both rather than an actual style mix. The same goes for Cult Party kei or even Decora, where the signature mass of hairclips may be used in Fairy-kei provided they're all pastel coloured. So instead of a proper fusion, you often get the impression of an outfit heavily influenced by Fairy-kei, whilst still clearly its own style rather than a proper fusion style outfit.

Another great thing about Fairy-kei is that it **doesn't have to be an expensive style**. Of course you can buy from the actual Japanese brands such as *Spank* (where the style originated), *ManiaQ* or brands that will often cater to the style such as *Swimmer* or *Angelic Pretty*, but that is definitely not a necessity for most pieces. Admittedly it can be a bit tricky to find basic pieces in the right colour over here, but *Bodyline* offers a fair lower priced alternative when you do resort to importing from Japan or can't make them yourself. DIY (do it yourself) is also a valid alternative if you can make your own garments seeing the amount of cute fabrics available. And of course there are the high street stores, who when pastels are all the rage, carry a good amount of basics ranging from tights, legwarmers, tops, accessories and even skirts. Another place to check out are the thrift stores, which may very well carry some nice original 80s pieces at very decent price. Make sure to also visit craft shops and toy stores, because with some small and inexpensive toys and basic accessory making supplies you can easily construct your own brooches and bracelets! It's a matter of taking out the time to go shopping and determination. But doing so will significantly lower the cost of your outfit, which makes that Fairy-kei is definitely one of those Japanese street fashions suitable to pretty much every budget. Another bonus for the pastel 80s style this summer!



**FAIRY-KEI:
FROM
THE EIGHTIES
WITH
PASTELS**





Glitter hairbow, 6%dokidoki. Scarf, Spank.
Ribbon ring, Chocomint. Bracelet, Angelic Pretty.
Sweater, ManiaQ. Shooting star bag, Angelic Pretty.
Skirt, Bodyline. Socks, Baby, the Stars Shine Bright.
Ankle cuffs, Chocomint. Shoes, Pieces.





Plush Angel hair scrunchie, Disneyland Paris. Frames, Theo. Faux fur stole, H&M. Carebear brooch, handmade, model's own. T-shirt, H&M. Red bow ring and pink rose ring, Accessorize. Silver bow ring, Baby, the Stars Shine Bright. Pompom bracelet, Bows & Apples. Knitted marchmellow bracelets, Camille et Margot. Teddybear bracelet, Angelic Pretty. Skirt, Bodyline. White tights, Insua. Star printed stockings, H&M. Socks with lace, market. Sneakers, Converse.



Fairy-kei in Japan at ARTism Market in Tokyo. One of the staffers dressed in the style. Snap by Helcanen.



Aiko Yume's adorable Fairy-kei style.
<http://aiko-yume.deviantart.com>



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東京少女國家。
 眼帯アリス
 症候群

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 fake-fantasy.
 イチゴウサビウ。
 Sweet holle
 Artism
 It's Complicated
 Recycle
 photograph: 大塚

Photography by Dan Orlowitz



Event: Antwerp Convention
When: April 28
What: Sci-fi, Fantasy and Horror convention with an Asian tinge added to the mix
Where: Antwerp Expo, Antwerp, Belgium
Ticket price: € 8 in presale, € 10 at the door and kids under 10 half price at the door if they were accompanied an adult
Website: www.antwerpconvention.be

Fully named *Antwerp Sci-fi, Fantasy and Horror convention*; but by all, the organisation included, referred to as *Antwerp Convention* has passed its third edition. And what an edition it was! This convention has steadily continued to grow, not only in popularity but also in quality and as someone who has attended all three editions so far I can honestly say that this is a con worth going to.

Not only does Antwerp Convention successfully unite fans of three major genres, it does so equally. There's no sum up of several genres to attract people only for visitors to realise there's hardly anything there they actually came for. No, Antwerp Convention promises and then delivers. And organises a wide variety of things for people to be entertained: Cosplay, laser shooting, lectures, guests to meet and much more. And for the Japan fan they had some bits and pieces too with the presence of *Belgotaku*, *Nippon Zasshi* and several shops catering to the tastes of those interested in the land of the rising sun.

Even though you could buy drink tokens at the entrance, you could get drinks at some stands without them. And due to the space limitations for the dining area the Korean food stand, which had excellent food for value by the way, had come up with the solution of take-away boxes, so you could just carry your food to the area near the stage which had more tables and a huge mat to sit on without fear of spilling. I thought that was pretty well done in creating an area where people could just sit around.

Even though there was such a mish-mash of styles, people were generally incredibly friendly and open minded (unless you ran into the few token douchebags that you get everywhere or the team of *Gazet van Antwerpen*) and mostly very interested in and respectful about the costume or outfit choices of others. As was the case with previous years, you could see some truly amazing costumes at Antwerp Convention. I'm inclined to think that this is the con people really do an effort for.

Of course a large part of a con is shopping, and it is no different at Antwerp Convention. But what is different is the fact that you find distinctively different things here than on other conventions. Whilst some items remain the same, most are things you very rarely see. The convention has never been one to solely focus on what's hip and popular at the time, instead provides the opportunity for collectors to get their hands on pieces they can't find elsewhere, often at a very reasonable price. And it's just great to see vintage toys and fandoms you don't generally encounter because they're not the mainstream thing of that particular week.

Another nice touch from the organisation is that they set up a booth in the middle of the entrance hall where you can pick up flyers and posters of the event as a free souvenir, which is something a lot of visitors appreciate quite a bit of course, especially as the Antwerp Convention artwork is always amazing.

So once again, Antwerp Convention was simply epic, and I absolutely look forward to the next edition. My only suggestion to the organisation would be to install those cool photo backdrops next time so people can have their photo taken at a cool location by their friends.



Event: Wave Gotik Treffen (WGT)
When: May 17 - 20
What: Europe's largest Gothic festival/event
Where: all over the city of Leipzig, Germany
Ticket price: € 89
Obsorgekarte (camping admission): € 25
Parking vignette for parking at the festival area: € 15
Website: www.wave-gotik-treffen.de

During the weekend of *Pentecost/Whitsun* the World's largest Gothic festival took place in *Leipzig*, Germany for the 22nd time. As we already announced in the previous edition of BCM the program of *Wave Gotik Treffen (WGT)* was really diverse: including readings of different authors, cinema, markets, picnics, free access to a lot of Leipzig's museums, and of course parties and concerts.

There is no way to visit, see or do everything of the program, so you have to choose wisely what you really want to see. Not too easy on a schedule bigger than an A3 sized sheet of paper, printed on both sides.

If you have chosen the stuff you want to see, you can get to the different event locations, spread all over the city by the public transport system because the ticket also includes the transportation fees at the city area of Leipzig.

For most of the visitors the weekend starts with the *Victorian Picnic* at the *Clara-Zetkin-Park*. Impressive historical and fantasy gowns all over the park, a lot of people just come to see all the amazing craftsmanship (including citizens of Leipzig) but also to meet new and old friends there and plan the rest of the festival.

On Saturday there are several smaller picnics organised by forums and groups, including the *Steampunk Picnic* at the park near the *Moritzbastei*. The place was not chosen that well because due to the closeness of the city and a main tram intersection it didn't take long for a lot of photographers to arrive there too and shortly after there were nearly more photographers than Steamers.

If you are not that much into picnics you can do some shopping at the different markets and vending grounds. There are two *Medieval Markets* and of course the big fair ground at the *agra* area, the main festival ground, where a lot of scene shops have their booths. If you're not looking for a limited edition item it's worth going there on the last day as some of the dealers will give a *last-day-discount*. Fun fact here: even the "normal" shops on the shopping streets of Leipzig change their decorations to black during WGT (they even sold black ice cream!).

For a more cultural program you could go to one of the many museums that opened their doors for WGT visitors and even offered special guided tours.

And what would be a festival without music? Over 200 artists performed at this year's WGT! So enough to choose from! And beside all the live concerts (including some German and European firsts) there were different parties every evening all over the city clubs with different themes and musical styles.

In conclusion: there's a lot to do, see and experience at Wave Gotik Treffen and I can tell you: they call it *Family Reunion of the Dark Scene* for a reason!



MAY LOLITA FASHION MEET

Sunday, May 19

Visiting Louvain - Belgium
optional theme: Kuro Lolita

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert, Saltje Khenfi,
Mdina Van der Linden & kind passers-by.





Event: Victorian Romance
When: June 9
What: Lolita fashion tea party
Where: Fly Away Fashion, Houten,
The Netherlands
Ticket price: € 5 at the door or free if you had
made a purchase in the (web)shop
of € 15 after your reservation and
before the event.
Website: www.flyawayfashion.com

Before I jumped in my car going to the Fly Away tea party in the Netherlands, I posted a quick note on their Facebook page telling them that I could be early and really quickly I got a reply that there was no reason to worry and it wouldn't be a problem which was really reassuring since I didn't know how long it would take to get there exactly and I wanted to leave in time!

After a really long drive and stressing a bit about traffic my husband and I were there on time. Not too early and not too late! I could just park freely in the street. The little shop is located in a quiet street in Houten, the Netherlands and so there wasn't a lot of traffic locally.

First thing I did was pay the five euro entry fee for the tea party. A little amount for a lot of fun!

The tea party started at the exact moment that was planned! First we all got a number for the raffle they were holding at the end of the tea party and then we got introduced to all the new goodies and gadgets and to the new dress that Katie designed! A white, creamy polkadots jsk that she was wearing. I thought it was really nice to see that the dress wasn't only on a mannequin but that she was wearing it. I thought it gave me a better idea of how the dress looked and what you can do with it.

Katie, our host, looked super lovely in the dress she designed. On all the tables there were little folders where you could find all the prices and different cuts the dress was available in and so everyone that wanted to order was able to get it the way they wanted and if you have a special request she can always include them! I myself bought the black wristcuffs she designed with really cute lace with small bows and hearts. The cuffs are just perfect and the execution is also really great!

There were a lot of girls present. A huge mix of styles and ages. The buffet, mostly made by Ruben, her partner, was super great! There were several cupcakes, chocolate pie, strawberries, yummy sandwiches, truffles, etc... there was a lot! There was plenty for all our tastes! I was super happy to see the strawberries! They also made some fresh juice and there was tea and coffee for all. As I don't like tea and coffee, they got me my favourite drink: Cola-light.

After a little break where we all mixed and mingled to get to know each other, we took pictures, a group shot and went back up to the room for the contest. There was a contest for best outfit and a raffle with 5 prizes. I thought all prizes were lovely and like everyone in the room I hoped to win but, I didn't. All the girls that won were super excited and happy.

As planned, at five in the afternoon the party ended and we all started to go home! It was a really great tea party and Katie was a perfect host, she made time for all who attended and tried to help us with all our questions. I can't really say anything bad about this tea party! There was plenty of food and drinks and we all had a place to sit. There was a lot of animation and everything was perfectly timed! No delays and no bloopers!

I personally can't wait for the next winter tea party!





FLY AWAY FASHION TEA PARTY

VICTORIAN ROMANCE

Photographic impressions

Fly Away Fashion website:
<http://flyawayfashion.com>

Photography by Jeroen Willems





Artifakt's International Steampunk Day celebratory picnic.

Steampunk is constantly on the rise in the Japanese fashion scene, so whilst it originated in the west, it still deserves a place here due to the growing Japanese popularity.

What better to feature than Belgian Steampunk collective *Artifakt's* celebratory picnic on *International Steampunk Day* held in Antwerp on June 14 (the date for the movement's holiday)?

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert, group shot by a kind passer-by.



AGNES VAN DE GENACHTE IS A STUDENT AT THE KUL (CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LOUVAIN) IN BELGIUM AND IS CURRENTLY LIVING AND STUDYING IN JAPAN AS PART OF A PRESTIGIOUS ONE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP.

FOR BCM SHE WRITES A COLUMN ABOUT HER LIFE AND ADVENTURES IN NIIGATA WHENEVER SHE CAN SPARE THE TIME.

For this edition I'm going to share some more trivia, because these are always fun. So let's start off with milk cartons, shall we?

Milk cartons (and every other drink that comes in a carton, except for alcohol because you tend to keep that longer) in Japan are 'old school' so to say, but actually a lot more efficient than those annoying caps we have in Belgium. Who hasn't spilled a drink yet because of those horrible plastic caps? In Japan you just pull open the carton and you can pour your drink without spilling half of it over the table our drops getting literally everywhere.

Something that most western people don't know, I think, is how different a typical Japanese bathroom is from a western one, because in hotels you mostly have western bathrooms. To put it short; I can flood my bathroom without flooding the rest of my apartment. When taking a bath in Japan, you usually wash yourself next to the bath to get in only after that, because families usually share the bathwater and this way it stays clean for everyone to use. They also use the bathtub until the rim so that when you get in, the waters flows over the bathtub on the floor. But because the floor is from plastic and you can close the door so that not a drop leaves the bathroom, there is no reason to panic. Which is also why in this kind of bathroom there is no shower curtain, but there is a horizontal pole to hang your laundry to dry.

Talking about laundry; when I first got here, I had no idea that my washing machine only uses cold water, so that was quite the surprise when I found out later.

I've also recently had my very first (and hopefully last) encounter with a Japanese clinic because I needed to see a dentist. And to be honest, I was quite nervous about it. At home I've been going to the same doctor and the same dentist for as long as I can remember, thus seeing a dentist I don't know in a foreign country made me a bit uncomfortable. But all went okay and I found it a pleasant surprise to find out that the dentist gave me my medication, which was included in the total bill, while at home I would have to go to a pharmacist as well.

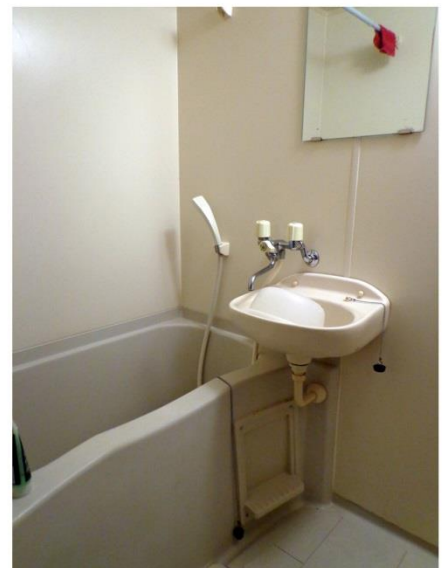
And of course there were the slippers as well; when going inside the clinic I had to change my shoes for a pair of slippers, which is one of those Japanese customs that gets to you when you least expect it.

Lastly there is one that I noticed has changed over the years; men and shorts.

When I first came to Japan four years ago, men basically didn't wear shorts but always long pants that looked like murder during summer. Now that summer is kicking in in Niigata and the clothing is changing accordingly, I see men wearing shorts popping up like mushrooms all around me. Of course, people working (with or without a uniform) still wear long pants, but outside of that in the free time, I actually do see shorts. Of course, I don't know if this is just a Niigata thing or not, but I thought it interesting anyway, because a Japanese friend once told me that the only men in Japan wearing shorts are basically tourists and otaku. I guess times really do change.

On a small Lolita related note; I've been mailing with a Japanese Lolita for a while and through her I found out that in Japan the common shorter version for *Angelic Pretty* is *Anpuri* (アンプリ), not *AP* like we use in the west. When she wrote Anpuri for the first time, it actually took me a few minutes to realize what she meant, and since I'm sure not many western Lolitas know about this one, I thought it fun to share as well. And also, a lot of Japanese Lolitas are actually jealous of western Lolitas because for them western Lolita's look more doll-like. This while a lot of western Lolitas find Japanese Lolitas more doll-like; the grass is always greener on the other side, I suppose.

Article and photography by Agnes Van De Genachte.





HELCANEN IN JAPAN

Earlier this year *Helcanen*, who's amazing photography has graced the pages of both previous and this edition of BCM, visited Japan for a month. This feature is a small showcase of her many beautiful photos of Japan, showing little bits of the country you won't commonly see in travel guides, but that nonetheless display the beauty and life of the country. As well as a few live photos she took at the many concerts she attended during her stay.

All photos by Helcanen. You can find her online on her website: www.helcanen.be or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HelcanenOfficial>

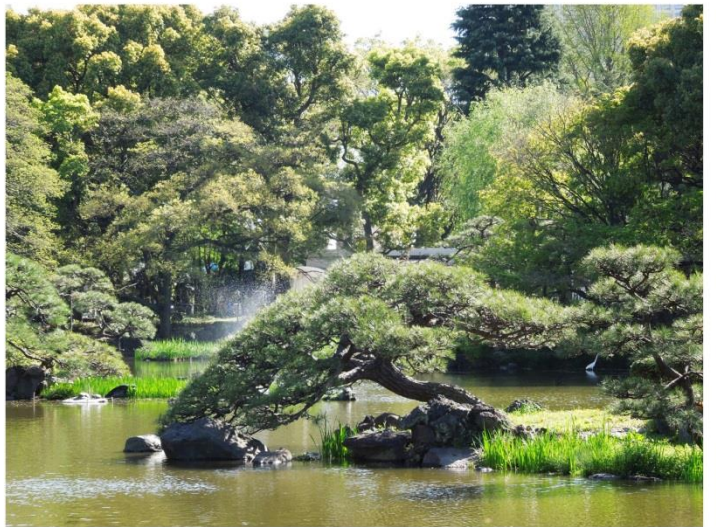
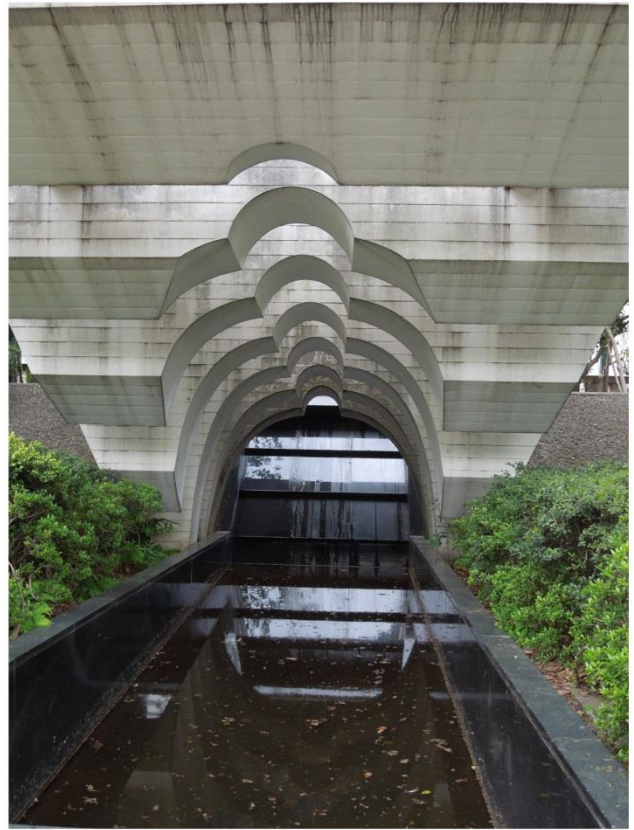


impressions of kamakura



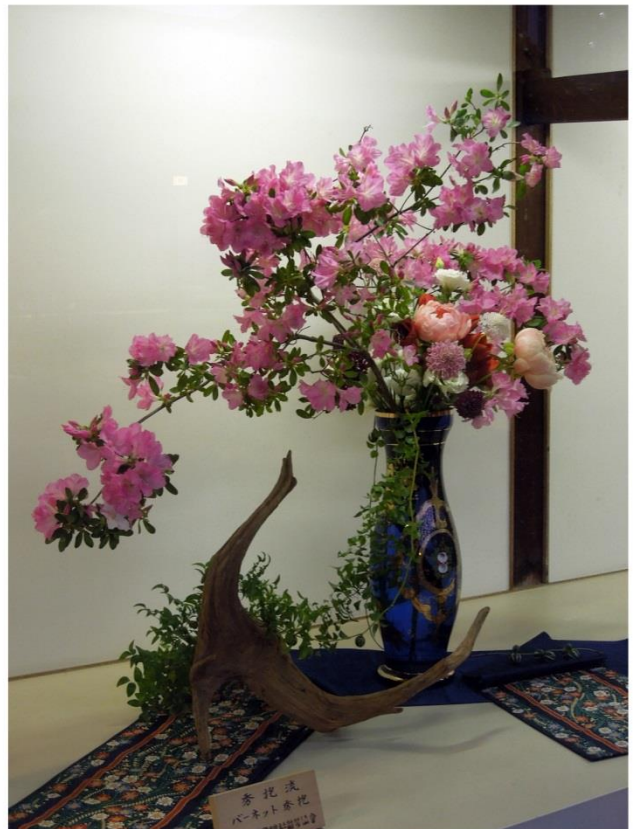
impressions of Kyoto





impressions of tokyo







live photography

Clockwise from the top left:

Error:666, live at Live Inn Rosa (Alamode Night) - April 14 2013
Misaruka, live at Ikubukuro (Starwave Records event) - April 22 2013
Synk;yet, live at Ikubukuro (Starwave Records event) - April 22 2013
Tokami, live at Ikubukuro (Starwave Records event) - April 22 2013



Pink Blackbird

--Website Coming Soon--

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J-MUSIC CORNER

Japanese music reviews and interviews.

Reviews by Hilde Heyvaert, Bert Van den Wyngaert and Marjan Van Esbroeck.



angela
"ZERO"
Album

Japanese duo Angela have been making music for 10 years and listening to their celebratory album ZERO it is completely clear and absolutely unsurprising why they are one of the of the top artists in the Japanimation scene and often called in to make theme songs for animation projects. And yet when listening to ZERO, you will discover not only melodies that indeed sound like they escaped a popular anime, but also strong, melodic songs that befit any great pop artist. The composing skill matches the vocals and both make for a perfect combination, riddled with elements from other genres such as symphonic metal guitar riffs and even circus like details. Never just randomly adding but always contributing to the song and adding to the general wonder of it. Angela is a very diverse duo, unafraid to experiment with sound and genres. Whilst with many artists this would end in a jumbled musical mish mash, they deliver a coherent sound and total album with ZERO that sticks to the ear and keeps you listening.

Calmando Qual

Black Sheep on Parade in Europe tour
Sunday, May 12 2013
LR6 – Brussels – Belgium

Even though it wasn't their first performance in Europe, Calmando Qual put up a fresh-feeling show at the LR6 on Sunday 12 May 2013. A lot has happened since their last European Tour, and it's only been for the best. Their music has gotten louder, better balanced and vocalist *Hibiki* incorporated even more punk aspects than usual. Due to the very cozy atmosphere in the basement where the concert took place, the guys had a lot of opportunity to do something they perhaps enjoy most during a gig: interacting with the audience. A lot of smiling, staring at people and pointing in all directions at everyone substituted any choreography they might have had planned. Speaking of which, the basement's "stage" may be small, but Hibiki still managed to jump around, physically showing the energy their songs convey musically. Although short, this was a wonderful gig to have been part of, and they did say they'd love to come back, so we're keeping our fingers crossed!

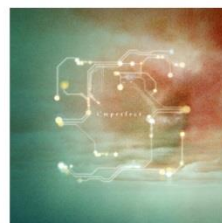
HITT

Europe – 2013 tour
Sunday, June 2nd 2013
Péniche Legia – Liège – Belgium

HITT, over the years he has more or less become our "house guest", visiting Belgium at least twice every year to perform. He has just left the country, but will be back in autumn to present his new album.

We've more or less set a standard for a HITT concert by now, and time and time again he keeps exceeding our expectations. Of course, classic elements remained, like the eternally present handheld mirror; a prop he uses frequently throughout his shows.

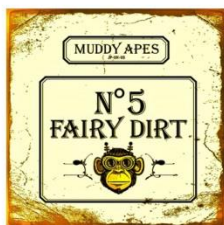
During the Flamenco-sounding song *Lalilalulalola* he traditionally invites people onto the stage to dance with him. This time was a bit special, though, as he announced it was "boys night" and solely danced with male fans to this song. He seemed a lot more energetic than last time I saw him, as if he suddenly got bit by a rainbow of inspiration, which perhaps is true considering he's working on a new album. The after-show activities included the usual merchandise sale and signing as well as the photo shoot where one could take a photo and take it home immediately. Yes, the Polaroid camera was busy as ever, showing once again how much *HITTERS* love HITT and HITT loves them. Then it was time for everyone to head homewards, the feeling of cheerful exhaustion still in the air.



Ling toshite
"i'mperfect"
Album

Release date: 24.6.2013

Even though Ling toshite has been somewhat of an indie rock sensation for years, *i'mperfect* is their first album to be released outside of Japan. As a band that caters to the fans of the more aggressive, blending hardcore and noise rock elements in the arrangements to compliment the signature male-female vocalists of the band, they are certainly doing a splendid job with this brand new 9 song release. Ranging from aggressive to intimate, the subtle changes and differences in songs and arrangements may differ and yet everything remains testament to Ling toshite's signature sound.



Muddy Apes
 "Fairy Dirt No.5"
 Album
 Release date: 3.7.2013

Muddy Apes are back and how! After last year's debut album *Crush it* they return with their much anticipated, all new, 9 song full album *Fairy Dirt No. 5*. This is the absolute proof that the Apes aren't up to any monkey business. Instead they are definitely here to stay and they're not just an international all-star band project. The style has evolved whilst still being clearly that signature Muddy Apes sound, it's even more rock, many times even harder than what we previous heard from them, whilst you can still hear and feel the band's love for music and desire to have a good time with Muddy Apes and to share those feelings with their fans. In which I have no doubt they will succeed admirably. Every single song is a fine one, and the combination of 9 straight rock songs, with varying rhythm and levels of hard to them with the ending in a ballad, Muddy Apes style with the almost subdued Terasu Karma near the end of the album as a quieter, almost ballad, makes for a well-balanced song line-up that only increases the listening pleasure and experience. Their second album is even stronger than their already rock solid debut, and an absolute must for every rock music lover out there. My only regret is that it only lasts 33 minutes, because I could have easily listened to a longer album. Thank god for the repeat button, because this is an album that grabs you and wants to keep you listening over and over again.

Also make sure to read the interview with the band in this edition!



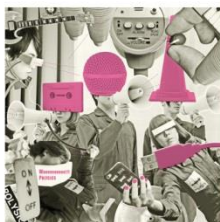
my way my love
 "The Fact Is"
 Album
 Release date: 4.7.2013

The fact is (pun intended) that *The Fact Is*, is a fantastic release. The new sound of Tokyo based noise-rock trio *my way my love* is a stroke of sheer genius and this 13 song full album is testament to that. It still has all the electronic elements that the band is known for and *Yukio Murata's* signature aggressive guitar play but it's evolved into something simply fantastic. And yet it still fits in perfectly with their older material. The Fact Is a perfect testament to a band's evolution how it should be, never losing their own particular, unique style, but improving on it with the changes. What attracts me most about the The Fact Is is the avant-garde tinge that Belgian rock was so known for during its glory days of the 90s with bands like *deUS* and especially *Soulwax* and yet it remains completely my way my love at the same time, showing that no matter who inspires this band, they will remain themselves and play their own tune. This is definitely the release of 2013 so far, and anyone into music that clearly thinks outside the box should give this a go the second it's released because literally everything on

this album works: vocals, the English lyrics, the arrangements and the combination of everything together. Be warned though, you may very well find yourself setting The Fact Is to repeat and unable to change to another band. Because the fact is, that The Fact Is, an album that wants to keep you listening and even dancing to the tune for as long as possible.



Also don't miss the interview with my way my love in the next edition of BCM!



POLYSICS
 "Weeeeeeeee!!!"
 Album
 Release date: 10.6.2013

Electronic ensemble *POLYSICS* returns with a new album full of their signature Technicolor *pogo pop* (their own special kind of electro-punk-new wave blend) and strikes home with this 14 song release. Or 17 song release if you get the UK version via *JPU Records*, which is well worth it as these aren't just remakes of already featured tracks, but 3 proper songs. *Weeeeeeeee!!!* is an excellent blend of punk, punk-rock, new wave and electronic sounds, with a well-balanced alteration of instrumental parts, male and female vocals and skilled instrument use. It's one of those CDs that makes you think of the video games you loved playing when you were a kid, and that makes you happy instantly just by listening to it. Even if this isn't really your genre, it's still very likely to put a smile on your face and get you nodding along to the tune. The new album is full of high energy, upbeat tempo songs that brighten any day, making *Weeeeeeeee!!!* another incredibly strong late spring/summer season release, definitely worth buying if you're a fan of insta-happy and/or electronic music!



Calmando Qual

Black Sheep on Parade tour
Bar Live 301, Roubaix, France
Friday, May 17 2013

That *Calmando Qual* was excited to come to Europe this year was already abundantly clear from their tour promotional video they released some weeks before the start. That enthusiasm they brought to the stage, along with their awesome music when they performed in Roubaix' *Bar 301*, a small venue in the North of France where *Râmen Events* (who organised this tour) often organise concerts. Due to strikes in the public transport in and around Lille and Roubaix that day the turn-out wasn't as big as the organisation no doubt had hoped, but the crowd that was there was as happy to be in Bar 301 as the band themselves: giving it their all, rocking out and jumping up and down like their lives depended on it, turning the small venue into an instant party that everyone present thoroughly enjoyed, whether they were on or off stage. Even *Seishou*, the guitarist of *Plunklock*, showed up in the corridor to watch the band perform for the duration of a couple of songs.

Whilst on their album, *Black Sheep*, which refers to the name of the tour, Calmando Qual has some distinctive Gothic rock and heavy metal influence, they were far more straight, good, solid hard rock on stage. All those influences were of course still there, but live they did sound different, and in my personal opinion, much better than on the album (which is awesome in itself mind). Despite of this difference in sound, all their songs were still clearly recognisable they were just better than on the recording. Of course the fact that the sound technician of the Bar Live 301 did an absolutely superb job and the acoustics are fantastic added to the quality of the music and the sublime performance of the band. Whilst most people there were undoubtedly there for Plunklock, I'm positive that a lot of those present left as fans of Calmando Qual as well if they weren't into the band's music already. They had no effort what so ever to get the crowd moving to their songs, and their interactivity, clear love for being on stage and their music as well as their great skill, made that this was a concert that was enjoyed to the utmost by the audience in general and turn it into a party that people will remember fondly for a long time yet to come.

My sole regret is that Calmando Qual was the opener of both concerts as I personally found that their performing craftsmanship, both as performers on stage and musically, by far outranked that of Plunklock and in my opinion they more than deserved a spot as headliner. Where Plunklock was a very well-oiled performing machine, I missed the organic feel and the unabridged love for music that the four of Calmando Qual obviously had. You could see those guys loved being on the stage and loved being in the band, which was great to see and added a positive extra dimension to the gig, and that's something I missed with Plunklock.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photography by Hilde Heyvaert, David Pleszak and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



PLUNKLOCK

European tour 2013
Bar Live 301, Roubaix, France
Friday, May 17 2013

The three last dates of their European tour were shared together with *Calmando Qual*, as *Kanzen Music*, the organisers of the PLUNKLOCK tour had joined forces with *Râmen Events* for the three last dates on both this tour and the *Black Sheep on Parade in Europe* tour of Calmando Qual. Even before the band arrived a little over a dozen hyper enthused fans had gathered outside on the square in front of Bar Live 301 to eagerly await the arrival of their idols, and whilst Calmando Qual took the stage first that band made sure to properly warm up the fans with even more excitement for live Japanese music with their fantastic concert.

PLUNKLOCK played a good solid J-rock set, bringing their own specific brand of *Visual-kei* with skill and seeing how happy drummer *Pinky* was whilst doing his thing simply brought a smile on everyone that saw him in action's face. It's great to see a musician enjoy himself that much on stage. The fans clearly enjoyed the concert as much as he did, rocking out to their heart's content and dancing, jumping about and headbanging from start to finish. The band proved that they are a solid four man group that is well rehearsed and skilled at bringing their music before a live audience. The crowd ate it up and really enjoyed it. Especially the attempts at speaking French of the band were very well received by the French audience and it was a nice touch of them to learn some basics to communicate with their fans.

All in all PLUNKLOCK's was a fun gig that the fans enjoyed loads and the band did a smashing job of giving the people that had come to see them a gig worth their while.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photography by Hilde Heyvaert, David Pleszak and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



CALMANDOQUAL

photographic impressions of their Black Sheep on Parade in Europe tour - May 2013

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert, David Pleszak, Bert Van den Wyngaert and Akio Yokoyama.



Starwood
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MOXITY



PLUNKLOCK

photographic impressions of their European tour - May 2013

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert, David Pleszak and Bert Van den Wyngaert



真紅の世界へようこそ



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7月21日 池袋EDGE 7月28日 心斎橋Club ALIVE! 7月29日 ビューサウンドアメリカ村店
7月30日 HOLIDAY NAGOYA NEXT 8月12日 池袋CYBER (無料ワンマン)

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<http://synk;yet.com>

Contents: Love Cats, Photo by Akio Yokoyama, Hair & Make: Ttrix for Ttrix

シンクイェット

検索



CALAMANDO QUAL:

Black Sheep on Parade in Europe

IN MAY JAPANESE ROCK BAND CALMANDO QUAL CAME BACK TO EUROPE ON THEIR BLACK SHEEP ON PARADE IN EUROPE TOUR, WITH A NEW DRUMMER AND A NEW SOUND. WE CAUGHT UP WITH THEM IN THE FRENCH CITY OF ROUBAIX FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH THE BAND TO TALK ABOUT THE SIGHTS OF EUROPE, THE IMPENDING DEATH OF MAYA AND THE MALEDICTION HE WAS CAUSING AS WELL AS, OF COURSE, THEIR EXCELLENT MUSIC.

You were very excited about coming to Europe, has the tour so far been everything you thought it'd be?

Tak (guitar): We are very happy to have been able to come back to Europe. We had been waiting to do this tour for a while now. The big difference between this tour and the previous one is that Maya is now the drummer for the band and he wasn't with them previously. Initially they were a bit worried as it'd be the first time for him to come to Europe, but it's all worked out great. Everything has been nice and we are very happy to discover Europe with him.

What do you miss most when you're on tour?

Tak: This time it's all good, the last time we really missed Japanese food. We really wanted to eat rice and dishes from home.

Maya (drums): People here are very kind, and because of that kindness we don't really miss anything specifically.

What was the best that happened you on this tour so far?

Tak: Of course performing the lives is great! But we also really enjoy that we can go out with *Râmen Events* staff and friends to discover places in Europe. We get to know cities and things we didn't know yet, so every day is new and that's very nice.

And what was the weirdest?

Tak: *grins* *The malediction of Maya!* It's difficult to explain, but it's constantly raining even though it's nearly summer! nWe're blaming Maya for this and call it the Malediction *laughs*.

You've been able to do some sightseeing on this tour already, what was the most impressive thing you've seen?

Tak: We went to various places and were very happy to see all of them of course, but for all of us it was our first time going to Paris and seeing the *Eiffel tower* in person. We were very happy to see it because in Japan it's such a famous monument.

Were those things you really wanted to see even before you left for the tour?

Mary and Sophie of Râmen Events: When we were in Paris it was the celebration of the *Victory of 1944* and we also wanted to go down the *Arc de Triomphe* but it was impossible due to the celebrations.

Tak: And we couldn't go on the Eiffel tower itself because it was already too crowded. In Brussels we also saw the *Manneken Pis* *laughs*. We really wanted to see that too and so we did, and then we saw *Jeanneke Pis* as well *smiles*.

Is there something you still hope to see on this tour?

Tak: I'd like to see *Mont Saint-Michel* but I don't think we'll have enough time on this tour sadly as it's nearing its end with only a few more dates left to go. Hopefully we'll have better luck next time to see all the places we still want to see. Even in Japan there are still many famous places left to explore. But as for Europe, if people recommend nice places to us, no matter how well-known they are, I'd like to go see them for myself.



You've been to Belgium, what was your impression of the country?

Maya: *laughs* Manneke Pis *makes the rest laugh too*.

Kenka (bass): I really like the architecture.

Tak: I really liked the food, especially the waffles and mussels.

What did you know about Belgium before going there?

Tak: We didn't know a whole lot about Belgium but two of us love beer a lot, so of course we knew about that and looked forward to trying it out ourselves.

Kenka: And waffles!

Tak: Some of us had heard about Manneken Pis before even though it's not that famous in Japan, but yeah we were glad to see it when we were visiting Brussels.

Hibiki (vocals): I knew about Belgian soccer a little because *Eiji Kawashima* is playing for *Standard Liège*.

You're currently back in France after your Paris date, what do you know about this country?

Hibiki: We only know a little about big cities like Paris and famous places like Versailles, but about towns like these, not so much.

Hibiki, in the tour announcement video you requested someone kill Maya. Have there been any attempts on his life yet?

(After the laughter over the question has died down).

Hibiki: *chuckling* No! I keep on asking the audience to kill him but it never works! I'll try harder *laughs along with the rest of the band*!

But who will play the drums if Maya does get killed?

(After a moment of consideration and more laughter).

Tak: his ghost will play the drums!

How would you say your music has evolved since the last time you came to Europe?

Tak: Maya joined the band since then so of course that had it's impact on the band musically. Before our songs were more Goth in style, now they're more rock. The audience has also changed into a more rock loving crowd. We will keep on changing no doubt, because we don't want to do the same thing all the time.

Do you think that touring in Europe will influence you when making your next release?

Tak: It will definitely inspire us. And who knows, maybe we'll put Manneken Pis on the cover of our next album *laughs*. Or perhaps something from the *Dali Xpo Gallery* we visited in Bruges *laughs*.

What's the best and the worst about being in Calmando Qual?

Tak: The best thing is spending time together, having fun together, even moments like this giving an interview and laughing together.

Hibiki: The worst thing is that the audience never kills Maya *laughs and causes the others to laugh too*. No seriously, there's nothing bad about being in Calmando Qual *smiles*.

You're part of Starwave Records, a Visual-kei record company that is very well-known amongst people in Europe. What does it mean to you to be signed to that label?

Maya: It's a great label! We like the other bands we are working with and everyone is very friendly with each other.

Tak: There's a big diversity because there's a lot of great bands signed to it and that makes for many different styles on the label. It provides a lot of different inspirations for us, and that all makes it very nice to be part of Starwave Records.

Any message for the European fans?

Maya: I was a bit afraid before I came to Europe because it would be my first time here, but now I'm very happy to be here and I would like to thank everyone very much.



Official website: <http://calmandoqual.com>

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert.
Japanese translation by Marie Huberty
Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert (intro page) and Akio Yokoyama.
Many thanks to Calmando Qual, Kiwamu Kai and Råmen Events.

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CALMANDO
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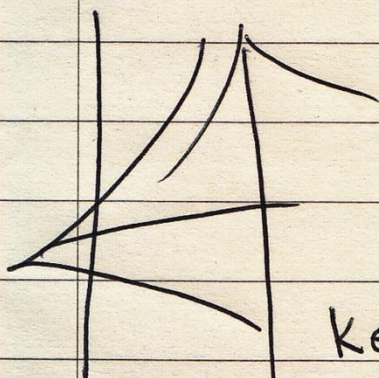
on guitar

Rock'n
Roll!!

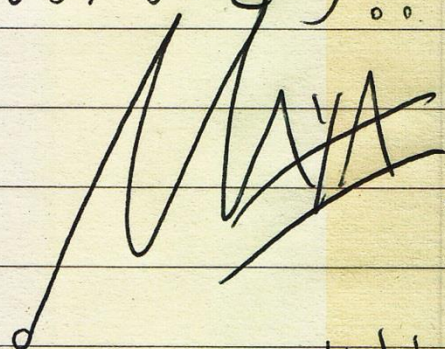
ありがとうございますm.c.m ヨーロッパのみなさまを
一生忘れません!!

Love beer

ありがとう!!



Kenka



まや

THE SOUND BEE HD HAS BEEN BUSY THIS YEAR: EARLIER THEY RELEASED THEIR NEW EP **CROSS** AND IN A FEW MONTHS THEIR BEST OF ALBUM **GHOST WORST FOREST**. WITH A NEW LOOK TO TOP ALL FO THAT OFF NOW IS AN EXCELLENT TIME TO GET TO KNOW THE BAND BETTER!

If you were to describe the band in 5 words, which would those be?

DAISUKE (vocals): Darkness, Sadness, Heavyness, Madness, Loudness.

HIRO (drums): Fascinating, Romantic, Adventure, Dramatic, Faithful.

YOU (bass): HACHI, DOKU, HANA, SOU, cross.

KAZUHA, you have performed in both the US and Europe, how would you compare audiences there to those in Japan?

KAZUHA (guitar): I can feel happy wherever I play, because I can see their great smiles!

Are there any plans for a THE SOUND BEE HD European tour? And which places would you definitely still like to perform?

DAISUKE: There haven't been any decisions made about a European tour yet. But I want to go everywhere!

KAZUHA: I want to go to the many countries that I've visited as a member of *BLOOD*.

YOU: I want to perform in many European countries and drink too much!

HIRO: I want to play in France!

What has been your most memorable live performance so far?

Nekocon and Katsucon!

You have released your last EP "Cross" in January of this year, how do you feel the musical style of THE SOUND BEE HD has evolved on Cross compared to your previous works?

DAISUKE: Since we changed guitarists our music has also evolved.

YOU: I think the world of THE SOUND BEE HD has spread since we've made Cross.

What's the best and the worst about the visual-kei scene as it is now?

KAZUHA: I like it, which is obvious as I'm part of that world. So I personally think there is no downside!

YOU: I would like to dye all our colours.

HIRO: A good point is that we can disguise ourselves as what we like. As for a bad point, tastes should be divided clearly.

You are part of Starwave Records, one of the best know Visual-kei record companies to people in Europe, what does it mean to you to be signed to this label?

DAISUKE: I believe that Starwave Records will be able to stand to the peak in the indies scene. And our boss, *Kiwamu Kai*, is the only person whom I want to lend power.

YOU: I think that we can change this scene to be more exciting and more powerful!!

HIRO: We can perform all over the world.

Starwave Records bands often collaborate with each other. If you got to choose an artist from any other band on the label to work with, who would it be?

DAISUKE: With *RUI* of *MISARUKA*.

KAZUHA: I don't think I want to work with someone else right now so no-body.

YOU: *BUBU*, she's *Kiwamu's* cat!

HIRO: I want to join a live performance of *SYOKUDAI*! (Note: SYOKUDAI is the shortened name for *Syokudaikakkodai*).

You've recently made some changes to your look, what inspired those and did you design your stage outfits yourselves?

DAISUKE: Our costumes were designed by us. I want to express the decadence of the world with mine.

KAZUHA: I think that this outfit is most suitable for me.

YOU: I designed my outfit to be that of a female vampire and a zombie pirate! I like changing and considering a concept each time we redesign our stage wear.

HIRO: I designed it being conscious of masculinity.

The new outfits have a very classic horror movie feel to them, which is your favourite horror movie?

DAISUKE: *Silent Hill* and *Sleepy Hollow*.

KAZUHA: Mine is *Silent Hill* as well.

YOU: *Hellraiser*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *Dracula*, *Fantasm*, ... I love all horror movies!

HIRO: *After 24 Weeks*.

Fans often offer gifts to their idol, what is the nicest thing you have ever been given by a fan?

DAISUKE: A motorbike.

KAZUHA: Silver accessories.

YOU: Letters and paintings.

HIRO: Letters.

Any messages for your fans?

DAISUKE: May the force with you!

KAZUHA: If you want to see us, we will go anywhere.

YOU: CHEERS!!!

HIRO: Come to our lives!

Official website: <http://thesoundbeehd.zombie.jp>

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photography by Akio Yokoyama.
Many thanks to THE SOUND BEE HD and Kiwamu Kai.



MUDDY APES ARE BACK WITH THEIR SECOND ALBUM FAIRY DIRT NO.5, ONCE AGAIN BRINGING THEIR FUN LOVING ROCK & ROLL MUSIC TO A GLOBAL AUDIENCE OF FANS.

EXPECT NO MONKEY BUSINESS FROM THIS BAND, BUT HONEST TO GOD LOVE FOR MUSIC AND ALL THE GOOD TIMES ASSOCIATED WITH IT.

TAKING SOME TIME FROM THEIR BUSY SCHEDULE THEY SAT DOWN TO ANSWER OUR EMAIL QUESTIONS TO TELL US MORE ABOUT WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.

What made you chose *Fairy Dirt No.5* as the title for your second album?

TAKA HIROSE (bass): Number "5" is a lucky number with special circumstances for Muddy Apes and it is kind of our watchword. There was an idea of using "No. 5" for the title, but just No. 5 felt like it was lacking something so we were searching for words to complete it. While we were doing this, Dean came up with the words "Fairy Dirt", which popped up when he and I were talking in fun. Fairy is "Yosei" in Japanese, and is also referred to as shiny stuff, but for Muddy Apes "Fairy" is the sparkles of tequila and champagne *laughs*. Dirt is the dirt, as is. It's Rock & Roll.

How do you expect the new album will change things for the band? What goal do you most aspire towards with Muddy Apes?

TAKA: For this second album, I hope that the individuality of each member in the band will be seen in the sound. And when we can bring it to the stage the matter is how we express the individuality and how much fun we can have doing this. Muddy Apes' goal is to bring ultimately cool Rock at the lives. Well actually I have been only thinking of this from the beginning and this is a self-contented world *laughs*.

MAESON (vocals): I hope our music will spread much more because I want to do a world tour!

INORAN (guitar): I want to do more live shows. My goal is to start feeling exhausted about doing live shows because I've been doing too many *laughs*.

DEAN TIDEY (guitar): I hope that it gives us a chance to tour and reach more people. We need to spread the Fairy Dirt! We need people to like us if we want to keep doing this. I'd like us to keep writing, recording and developing our sound. Hopefully we'll make more records.

Just listening to *Fairy Dirt No.5* you can hear that you guys had a lot of fun making this album and really enjoy creating music, what put you in the right mindset to create songs for the album?

TAKA: We made the last album (editor: *Crush It*) without thinking of MAESON as a vocalist, but since we started doing live shows together, I think both INORAN, DEAN and I made songs taking MAESON's vocal style into account. We wanted MAESON to enhance his level as a vocalist and challenge it, and I do think he accomplished it.

INORAN: I was thinking of making the album of which we can be confident to loudly say that we find it "COOL"!

MAESON: I think the vibe is super important! Atmosphere.

DEAN: Tequila! We just wanted to make a good Rock & Roll album.

What's the best, the worst and the most hilarious thing that happened during the recording?

TAKA: We were supposed to assemble all of the members to shoot music video at the last day of MAESON's stay after we recorded all the vocal parts, but MAESON realized he got his flight schedule back to Japan wrong, and as soon as he got up in the morning he said "my flight is this morning". This is the worst thing. MAESON had to return to Japan and then had to immediately perform at an *8otto* live, but the music video of Muddy Apes could not be shot without the vocalist. So he found another flight and we set up for the shooting as soon as possible, shot all MAESON's parts first, and saw him off to the airport. People around him had a much tougher time than MAESON himself *laughs*. This time we had no days off for 3 weeks. It was just going

back and forth between the studio and the hotel, but we could hold a party at Dean's house inviting our friends, families and neighbours. It was loads of fun. I drank a lot of tequila.

INORAN: The worst thing was that we didn't have any days off. But Tampa is like my hometown now!

MAESON: As I did my hardest for the recording, I made mistake about my flight back to Japan for a day. We shot our music video at the last day in Tampa, but that day was actually the day of my flight. I noticed this fact around the time of the departure. I finishing the music video shooting, went back to Japan half day behind, and I still managed to arrive at the venue 30 minutes before the start of the *8otto* live. I bothered every member of staff.

DEAN: The best thing was that we managed to get everything done in the short amount of time we had to record and make videos etc. and had lots of laughs in the process. The worst thing was that we missed *Lobster Night* at the *James Joyce* pub. The most hilarious thing was our resident monkey *Muddy Koni*, you'll see him in the video for *Peep Show*.

Just like your debut album *Fairy Dirt No.5* was recorded in Florida. If you could take one thing you love from the sunshine state home with you, what would it be?

TAKA: I can feel the sunshine anywhere in Florida, but I want to see the beach sometime! This is the second time in Florida, but I have never even touched the sea water.

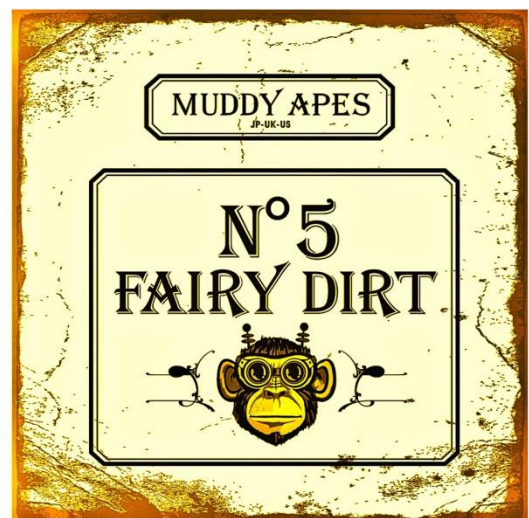
INORAN: I could go to the beach, just for half day though. It was a really good feeling and I got sunburnt.

MAESON: Taco Bus is the best!! It is delicious.

DEAN: Florida is now home for me, it's super relaxed and has beautiful sunsets.

The jacket of your new album has a distinctive *steampunk* feel to it with a hint of *dieselpunk*, was this something you were going for? How familiar are you with the steampunk and dieselpunk genres?

TAKA: I didn't know about dieselpunk at all. This cover is the mixture of tequila, champagne and *Chanel* I think. The illustration was drawn by my friend *Ben Frichot* from Australia.



Which song of the new album are you looking forward to playing live most and why?

TAKA: I have special feeling towards *New Sunday* among the songs which I wrote, but honestly speaking I am looking forward to playing every song. I think the listeners probably do not notice, but the tuning is actually troublesome at most of the songs during the performance, and it's going to be challenging for us to smoothly play these songs at the live show!

INORAN: I'm looking forward to playing all new songs live.

MAESON: I think it's *New Sunday*. I want to do the big chorus with every one!

DEAN: *Tequila No. 5*, as it's the easiest one to play! I'll know better after we've had some rehearsals. I'm looking forward to playing them all as new songs are always fun.

When we last interviewed you, you were interested in playing in Europe. Do you still want to come over and are plans any more concrete at this time?

INORAN: We don't have a specific plan, but we want to go touring as Muddy Apes.

You're playing FUJI Rock in Japan, which other band or artist performing there are you hoping to catch playing live yourself? If you got to choose one European festival to play, which one would it be?

TAKA: It's *The Cure*! We will play anywhere in Europe if someone in over there invites us. I performed at various festivals in Europe, but I think each festival has its own character. I have performed at European festivals many times by my own band (editor: *Feeder*), but never as Muddy Apes. Since it's going to be the first time, I can't imagine what it will be like. It's exciting.

INORAN: For me it's *The Cure* also. *The Cure* is part of my adolescence! Festivals can be anywhere!!!

Some of you are avid soccer fans, what's your prognostic for the 2014 world cup? Who's going to qualify and who's going to win?

TAKA: I think my home country England should pass the preliminary round, but after that they will lose immediately. Whether Japan can

pass the preliminary round or not is depending on the opposing team. The final match will be Spain versus Brazil and I think Brazil will win.

INORAN: I want to see fantastic play during the games!!!

MAESON: Brazil will definitely win! I have a sense of affinity with Brazil as I have a stronger face with prominent eyes and nose with naturally curly hair as Japanese. I want Japan to win! I am looking forward to the world cup.

DEAN: I think Brazil has a pretty good chance, if the pressure of playing at home doesn't get to them. I hope that England will qualify, but they've been terrible recently, well since 1966! As I support *Newcastle United* and most of our team is French, I should probably look out for them as well. Hopefully Germany won't win!

You've been into music for a very long time and you're all excellent musicians, but what kind of music did you make when you first started? What would be your advice for aspiring musicians?

TAKA: When I first started making music by myself, it was completely in a self-contented world and I could never let anyone listen to my music at all. But once I would become confident then came individuality and grew as a musician.

INORAN: My advice is "people become best at what they love the most".

INORAN, did you ever end up making peace with the opossum that you called a chupacabra on twitter?

INORAN: Things became amicable *laughs*.

As a parting query, could you please impart some Muddy Apes style wisdom to our readers?

FIVE!!!!!!

Official website: <https://www.facebook.com/MuddyApes>

Muddy Apes second album *Fairy Dirt No.5* out on July 3rd on both regular edition and limited edition with DVD via King Records and all the usual stores for Japanese music!

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert and Esther Huang. Many thanks to Muddy Apes and King Records. Photography provided by King Records, used with permission.



NAOKI KAJI IS THE CREATIVE MIND BEHIND JAPANESE ACCESSORIES LABEL GOLDLEATHER WHO HAS WORKED WITH VAMPS AND OROCHI IN THE PAST, TO NAME BUT A FEW ARTISTS THAT HAVE PREVIOUSLY GRACED THE STAGES OF EUROPE. RECENTLY HE HIMSELF VISITED BELGIUM, SO WE SEND HIM A FEW QUESTIONS OVER EMAIL TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HIS DESIGNS.

Your label is called GoldLeather, is that a reference to the historical gold leather that was often used for decorative purposes in Europe some centuries ago?

Gold is a shining, glittering colour. I chose a name that makes people feel that I use a high-quality brilliant leather and want to create the finest products. Nowadays I'm also using silver and brass but at the beginning, I only made leather goods.

What attracts you so much in working with leather, what made you choose that particular material?

Leather has a different maintenance than vinyl or fabric so I could use it immediately many years ago when I started out. And, every time I use it the texture is rapidly kind of improving. I want to create goods with great care because I always use the animal leather used for my designs very carefully.

Did you study something specific to become a leather crafter? Or did you teach yourself?

I didn't go to school or follow any technical or specific courses. I simply wanted to create something out of the material so what I did was go to a second hand shop and learned how to use some of the leather working tools there. After that I continued to study on my own 'till I could finally use all the necessary tools and create things. Of course, I'm still studying now.

Have you ever considered making clothing aside from accessories as well?

Yes, I also want to make clothes, but I'm not really thinking about it now. I really fuss over my customers that ask for custom orders. In order to achieve the best, I think that accessories, bags, wallets, purses, belts and so on are quite good choice.

Your designs have an ethnic and almost post-apocalyptic feel to them as well as a hint of steampunk and dieselpunk, are you at all interested in the steampunk genre, which is currently well on the rise in Japan?

In fact, I didn't know about steampunk and dieselpunk so I did a search for it and indeed, it is quite similar to my designs. I think it's quite interesting. Of course, I don't mean that I want to imitate that style but I think that seeing various nice things and getting a thorough understanding of it helps me to develop new ideas.

Which cultures influence you the most when creating new pieces?

My inspiration? When I create new pieces I usually use nothing but a personal mental image and, to develop it, I use my own world view. When I create something or other, I need to experience, touch, feel, various things indeed so I go to the museum, to the church, to a castle... There are a lot of places where the people from the past, our ancestors, carefully kept their "soul" and where I can get their influence.

You've come to Europe to make contacts here, what does a designer need to have in order for you to want to collaborate with them? And what kind of collaboration are you hoping to achieve with a Europe based designer?

I would like to have collaboration for my products yes. For example, I think it would be interesting to join a catholic symbol from Europe like a cross and a Japanese symbol such as a "sakura" (cherry blossom) together. I also would like to learn more about the good taste that Europeans have for colours in buildings, clothing, and so on. I think people's taste for colour here is wonderful. Most of the time the things I make are basically black, so I would like to develop my range of products in a more colourful way.

You've worked with several members of VAMPS in the past, could you tell us a little more about those collaborations?

It began when I showed my work to K.A.Z., who I knew already. He was very pleased with my designs when he saw them. On the same day, he wore one of my GoldLeather necklaces during the live, which already made me very happy. A short time later, HYDE also began to wear my goods. It pleased and moved me so much when they wore my products during a show that was attended by 60,000 people that I cried. I'm currently working with the other members, Ju-Ken, on a hat and Arly on a necklace and a bangle.

If you got to choose some artists you have not worked with yet, who would it be?

The others artists I would like to work with are Gackt, Yoshiki from X JAPAN, Yasu from Acid Black Cherry, Kiyoharu from SADS and Lady Gaga.

What would you say is your greatest accomplishment with Gold-Leather so far and what do you still hope to accomplish in the future?

Seeing HYDE wear my products. I've been a fan of his and he's been an inspiration to me since I was a high school student. In the future, I would like to participate or to play an active role in the Paris Collection and Milano Collection. I also would like my brand to continue even after my death.

You've recently visited Antwerp, what were your impressions of the city?

In fact, I knew about Belgium because of the Antwerp Six (A group of influential avant-garde fashion designers who graduated from Antwerp's Royal Academy of Fine Arts' fashion department between 1980-81 consisting of Walter Van Beirendonck, Ann Demeulemeester, Dries Van Note, Dirk Van Saene, Dirk Bikkembergs and Marina Yee). I wear some of Ann Demeulemeester's clothes and it's one of my favorite brands. I had a very positive feeling about it knowing that designer from this district could create a worldwide label.

What did you know of Belgium prior to your visit here?

I knew about the waffles and chocolate but also that it is called "the centre of Europe" and that its diamond processing technology is the best in the world.

What advice would you give to people wanting to start making accessories out of leather themselves?

First of all, I don't think that designing is a gorgeous world. I think it makes you relish a sober job, strict things and even loneliness. But aside from that, selling dreams and seeing the smiling faces makes it a wonderful job. Money is of course important when it comes to creating your products. It's not enough to create with your feelings only, it's also essential to create something that matches your customer. Because without them, you can't continue doing the job you love.

Do you have a message for our readers?

I'm Naoki Kaji from the GoldLeather brand. I create accessories, bags, wallets and belts by collecting parts of the world I went around in, learning about cultures and not being caught in stereotypes and mixing cultures. It's a small production but I'm happy if you feel the soul that was charged into a creation. In the near future, I will try to develop in France so please come and see my work. I will post news on my Facebook page so please check it out. Thank you.

Website: www.goldleather.jp

Facebook: facebook.com/naokikaji.goldleather

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Japanese translation by Marie Huberty. Photography & designs by Naoki Kaji.



CUPCAKE FOCUS:

Mdina





THIS EDITION'S FOCUS IS ON MDINA, WHO WITH HER VERSATILE STYLE AND WARDROBE ALWAYS COMES UP WITH ORIGINAL COORDS IN THE BELGIAN J-FASHION AND LOLITA COMMUNITIES.

What originally got you into Lolita fashion?

Somewhere in 2008 I got into J-rock music and with that I discovered the Japanese street fashions. *Lolita*, *Visual-kei* and *Decora* were the first 3 styles that caught my eye. When planning my first trip to London I discovered that there was a Lolita store in *Camden Town* and so I bought my first dress. My first coord was quite fail, but I improved over the years.

You frequently wear other J-fashion styles also, which are your favourites and why?

I wear a lot of *Visual-kei* and very toned down *Fairy-kei*. I actually started off with *Visual-kei*. I love the hair and make-up. Also the style has almost no rules to it so you just wear what you want to wear. You can make it as extravagant as you want. It gives me this self-esteem boost. In *Visual-kei* I'm fearless. A bit later I fell in love with *Fairy-kei*. Next to dark colours I also love bright colours very much. I wear it more toned down because I feel nervous when wearing it. I'm not used wearing so much colour. In my daily life I try to mix them so I end up wearing *KERA* magazine styles of fashion.

Which styles (both Lolita and J-fashion) that you've not worn yet would you still like to try out?

I really love *Gyaru* fashion, *Himekaji* (*Casual Hime Gyaru*) to be specific. It's very girly and sweet. My first *Himekaji* outfit is on the way. I only need to practice on *Gyaru* make-up. I still haven't mastered it. Next to that, I want to try *Mori-kei* as well. I love the way they layer their clothing. It also has this easy feel to it. Both fashions are very feminine and that's not really something I'm used to wearing. I hope I get some more confidence when trying them out. 6% *dokidoki* style would be cool to try out as well. In *Lolita*, I would like to try *Sweet* and *Country Lolita*. I also want to try out the *Kodona* style.

Do you have a dream print?

I do! My dream print is *Milky Berry* from *Angelic Pretty*. I love fruit prints, like *Strawberry Parfait* and so on but *Milky Berry* was my first love. I want it in as a halter neck JSK in pink or white.

You're also a dancer, could you tell us a little more about that?

Well as I was getting into Japanese fashion, I got to learn about other music as well. I found *parapara dancing* first. I saw other people making covers of it so I decided to make one myself. The first song I covered was the *parapara* version of *Caramelldansen* in my first Lolita dress. Later on I also stumbled on *J-pop* and *K-pop*. So not much later still I put up my first *K-pop* cover. In the beginning I wasn't good at all, but the more you dance, how more you improve.

Do your J-culture interests influence your dancing?

Actually it does. For *J-pop* songs I can wear what I want. I try to wear more *Visual-kei* and *Fairy-kei* in them. It shows more what I like in fashion. For *K-pop*, it's a bit different. I try to fit the theme of the music videos or live performance. If I would wear *Visual-kei* for *K-pop*, it would be out of place. *Gyaru* fashion would fit way better. Another reason to start wearing it.

If you could change one thing about the international Lolita community, what would it be?

That people would be more focussed on themselves. There is a lot of gossiping and so on in Lolita fashion. I read that girls are scared to start Lolita because of it a lot. That's very sad. I am someone who reads *Behind the Bows* and I find it quite immature to be honest. If you don't like someone then just leave them be. I also wish that the stigma of wearing off-brand would go away. Even though a lot of people don't care if you wear off-brand, brand or even a replica, some people still feel very uncomfortable not owning brand.

What do you like most about your local community?

We are a very open community. It really doesn't matter what kind of Lolita clothing you wear. You are always welcome. Even if there is a theme for a meet-up and you decide not go along with it then no-one is going to look filthy at you. If you want to wear another J-fashion at a meet, then it's welcome as well.

What advice would you give to people new to Lolita?

Do a lot of research before you start. I actually can't stress this enough. Look up on how to wear it, where to buy it and so on. One picture on *Google* won't do. If you have questions, don't be afraid to ask other *Lolitas*. There are many good *Lolitas* out there, who would help you with pleasure. Don't be afraid to join your local community. I was very nervous for my first meet-up but I made great friends. Also your community can help you on your way. And last but not least, if any other Lolita gives you advice on something, then take it. Don't assume that they are just jealous. They just want to help you. You don't have to use the advice but just take it in mind.

in a nutshell

Name: Mdina

Forum nick: Meeki

Age: 20

Styles: Gothic, Punk, Ero and Bittersweet

Favourite brands: H. Naoto, Black Peace

Now, Putumayo, Baby the Stars Shine Bright

Wearing Lolita fashion since: 2009

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT TOKYO, JAPAN, AND ESPECIALLY IT'S *HARAJUKU* DISTRICT, IS THE MECCA FOR EVERYTHING RANGING FROM CUTE TO WONDERFUL TO WACKY AND EVEN WEIRD. BUT IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THE STORES FOLLOWING THE LATEST TRENDS IN FASHION AND KAWAII THERE ARE ALSO PLENTY OF TREASURES SITUATED RIGHT IN THE HEART OF THIS HIP AND HAPPENING DISTRICT, ONE OF THESE IS **TETRAGRAMMATON**, WHICH WAS DISCOVERED BY *HELKANEN* (WHO'S PHOTOGRAPHY CAN BE SEEN THROUGHOUT BOTH LAST AND THIS EDITION OF BCM) DURING HER LAST TRIP TO TOKYO. AND IT IS THANKS TO HER THAT WE GET TO SHARE THIS LITTLE MARVEL. IF YOU ARE IN TOKYO AND SHOP SOUNDS LIKE YOUR PROVERBIAL CUP OF TEA, DON'T HESITATE TO DROP IN FOR A VISIT!

Started in *Harajuku*, on the new moon day of July 2010, **TETRAGRAMMATON** specializes in accessories. It is **located at** the end of *Takeshita Street* on the basement level of the building it's housed in, across *Aoyama Street* which houses the famous fashion complex *Laforet Harajuku*.

The shop isn't large, in fact it is rather quite small with its 50 square meters with but it makes up for its lack of space by being **quiet and like a cozy little cloister** where you can take some time and enjoy the atmosphere and come to rest from the busyness of Tokyo town.

You'll be amazed when you find the shop after walking down the crowded *Takeshita Street*, filled with thousands of other people. Descending the stairs you are greeted by stained glass windows like you would expect in a church and two rabbits that are happily welcoming you. Opening the dark and heavy door to **TETRAGRAMMATON** will welcome you into viewing another world.

The store is divided into **two sections**:

The first is an accessories shop specialized in both imported and domestic elegant Gothic fashions. The second is a tea room where the customers can enjoy English tea and sweets whilst seated on two hundred year old real antique chairs and enjoy their treats underneath the red iron chandelier from which blood seems to be falling down in thick drops.

During the three years the store has been in this location it has become a favored location of many Gothic and Lolita affectionados, clubbers and V-kei lovers alike from all over Japan and some other countries too. It is even frequented by some members of V-kei bands. **TETRAGRAMMATON** has been featured in Gothic & Lolita magazines as well as TV programs for dozens of times and its customers range from teenagers, people in their thirties but even senior citizens who are on the look-out for something new and unique. It is an all ages, **friendly and welcoming** place.

And to top all of that off **TETRAGRAMMATON** is preparing a new project called *Kurofune Lands In Harajuku* for which they are looking for overseas artists who would like to aim at selling on the Japanese market. For those they offer several services in order to help them realise their dreams, or just part of it by selling their creations and products in the middle of Japan's kawaii paradise *Harajuku* in the store. Artists can send their application to the store owners of **TETRAGRAMMATON**, *Tomoe Hojo* and *Rei Saionji*, who will make a selection of artists they deem appropriate for the store. If you are interested in the *Kurofune* project, check out the website for further details!

TETRAGRAMMATON General info:

Address: B1F Onden Corner Bldg.
4-32-1 Jingumae
Shibuya-ku
Tokyo 150-0001
JAPAN.

Phone: +81 3 6447 0029

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Weekends and Japanese Bank Holidays: 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Website: www.tetragrammaton.jp (in Japanese)

Kurofune Lands in Harajuku project page:

www.tetragrammaton.jp/kurofune/index.html (in English)



EVENT CALENDAR

All dates and information may be subject to change, none of this is within our control.

JULY

Perfume

3: Gloria, Cologne, Germany
5: O2 Academy Islington, London, UK
7: Le Bataclan, Paris, France



Japan Expo

Date: 4-7
Venue: Paris-Nord Villepinte Exhibition Center
City: Paris (Marne-la-Vallée)
Country: France
www.comic-con-france.com

Comic Con Paris

Date: 4-7
Venue: Paris-Nord Villepinte Exhibition Center
City: Paris (Marne-la-Vallée)
Country: France
www.japan-expo.com

Deathgaze on tour

4: Rock for People Festival, Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic
6: La Boule Noire, Paris, France
7: The Underworld Camden, London, UK
9: Werkstatt, Köln, Germany
10: Knust, Hamburg, Germany
12: Firlaj, Wrocław, Poland
13: Szene Wien, Wien, Austria
15: Feierwerk, Munich, Germany
17: Plan B, Moscow, Russia
http://www.b7kian.com



°C-UTE

°C-UTE CUTIE CIRCUIT VOYAGE À PARIS
Date: 5
Venue: La Cigalle
City: Paris
Country: France
www.bishi-bishi.com/en

In ghost's footsteps art exhibit

Opening date: 5 (8 pm)
Further dates:
6, 7, 13 & 14 (2 pm – 6 pm)
Venue: Pastorij (Dorp 68)
City: Herselt
Country: Belgium

Angelic Pretty Tea Party

Un après midi chez Madame de Pompadour
Lolita fashion event
Date: 7
Venue: hôtel Le Meurice
City: Paris
Country: France
European site: angelicprettyparis.blogspot.com/search/label/Tea%20Party
Japanese site: www.angelicpretty.com/news/2013pari/index.htm



Convention Lolita

Date: 7 & 8
Venue: Pelleport66
City: Paris
Country: France
<http://conventionlolita.wordpress.com>

ADAMS

The Bittersweet Tour
11: Rock Box, Luxembourg, Luxembourg
www.ramen-events.com (for this date only)
12: MTC, Cologne, Germany
13: Privatclub, Berlin, Germany
14: AVO Festival, de Helling, Utrecht, The Netherlands



A Fancifull Steampunk Matinee

Date: 11
Venue: de Wheem
City: Meppel
Country: The Netherlands
www.aethersalon.nl

Atsusacon

Date: 20 & 21
Venue: Antwerp Expo
City: Antwerp
Country: Belgium
www.atsusacon.be

HYPER JAPAN 2013

Date: 26 – 28
Venue: Earls Court
City: London
Country: UK
www.hyperjapan.co.uk

Annual Dutch European Steampunk Convention

Date: 26-28
Venue: De Schiphorst
City: Meppel
Country: The Netherlands
www.aethersalon.nl

FantasiaFest de Lindenhurst

Date: 27 & 28
Venue: De Schiphorst
City: Meppel
Country: The Netherlands
www.fantasiafest.nl

AUGUST

Castlefest

Date: 1 (opening concert only) – 4
Venue: Castle Keukenhof
City: Lisse
Country: The Netherlands
www.castlefest.com

Frock on

Lolita fashion event
Date: 31
Venue: One Whitehall Place
City: London
Country: UK
<http://teapartyclub.doomby.com>

SEPTEMBER

Elf Fantasy Fair Arcen

Date: 14 & 15
Venue: Arcen Castle (gardens)
City: Arcen
Country: The Netherlands
www.elffantasyfair.com

the Gazette on Tour

20: Le Trianon, Paris, France
www.letrianon.fr
22: Le Phare, Toulouse, France
www.premier-pression.com
25: FZW, Dortmund, Germany
www.fzw.de
27: Muffathalle, Munich, Germany
www.muffatwerk.de
29: The Circus, Helsinki, Finland
www.thecircus.fi

Pirates,

eine Abenteuerliche Zeitreise
Date: 20-22
Venue: Brückenkopf – Park Jülich
City: Aachen
Country: Germany
www.piraten-abenteuer.de

Tokyo Crazy Kawaii Party

Date: 20-22
Venue: Parc Floral de Paris
City: Paris
Country: France
www.crazykawaii.com

OCTOBER

Paris Manga & Sci-fi Show

Date: 5 & 6
Venue: Porte de Versailles, Hall 2.1
City: Paris
Country: France
www.parismanga.fr

FACTS 20th anniversary

Date: 19 – 20
Venue: Flanders Expo
City: Ghent
Country: Belgium
www.facts.be

Metal Female Voices Fest

Date: 18-20
Venue: Oktoberhallen
City: Wieze
Country: Belgium
www.metalfemalevoicesfest.be

ONE OK ROCK on tour

23: Le Trianon, Paris, France
24: Brückenforum, Bonn, Germany
26: O2 Academy Islington, London, UK
27: Le Bataclan, Paris, France
29: Melkweg, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.b7kian.com



NOVEMBER

Emporium Vernesque

Steampunk Convention
Date: 16
Venue: Willemse
City: Arnhem
Country: The Netherlands

BCM SNAP

Want to be in the next edition's Snap page?
Send a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion, any kind will do, or steampunk (due to the current popularity of the style in Japan)
to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com
and you may very well see yourself featured in the next edition!



ANTWERP CONVENTION SNAP!

Antwerp Expo, Belgium, April 28



WAVE GOTIK TREFFEN SNAP!

Leipzig, Germany, May 17 - 20





Happy Summer!

SUBMISSION RULES

1. Commitment.

When you agree to do something for the magazine, please commit and actually DO it. There's nothing as annoying as people that agree to do something and then don't. Especially right before deadline. Yes people can become ill and life may get in the middle, but the deadline is announced well beforehand and there's really no need to wait 'till the very last moment to submit an article. Generally there is a lot of time for people to submit their pieces. I edit something as soon as I get a piece in, just to make sure that I can get everything done in time and health and life can only provide minimal disturbance. So you're actually doing me a favour by submitting as soon as possible/before deadline.

If someone doesn't submit to an edition without a valid reason or explanation, I reserve the right to set an earlier deadline for the person that hasn't submitted before whilst they committed, to make sure that we get the article in the next magazine they wish to cooperate on. I'm not doing this to hurt feelings or step on toes, but I don't want to give people the opportunity to hijack the magazine (with or without malicious intent). That sounds harsh, I agree, but in my personal experience some people systematically volunteer and never deliver, thus excluding others from the opportunity to submit and keeping the magazine from getting said piece in. It's exactly that I'm trying to avoid by putting rules like these in place.

Being chief editor isn't just all the fun and good times, it is a lot of hard work and sometimes I will have to make harsh decisions and this is one of them. I'm sorry if this upsets someone, that's not my intention, I'm trying to do right by the magazine and especially the people that genuinely want to contribute and our readers.

2. Deadlines

Stick to the deadline. They are announced well in time. You can not only find it right here, but also on the very last page of the magazine. It's easy to find the deadline when you forget when it is.

The deadline for issue 14 is **August 24th**.

Submissions not in my inbox when I turn on my computer the morning of August 25th the will not appear in the magazine. Plain and simple as that. Respect the deadline people!

The reason behind this is simple: not only does everyone have ample time to meet the deadline; from experience I know that extending it means that the magazine is likely never to happen.

Also: editing takes a lot of work, so if I want to release in a timely manner after the deadline I can't wait for articles 'till Hell freezes over.

3. Submitting

All entries for the magazine must be submitted by email on hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com

That is also the address where you can reach me with questions, remarks etc.

If you have an idea for the next edition, don't hesitate to let me know!

When you submit artwork or photos, they must be **at least** 2000 pixels and jpg files, the bigger the better! (e.g. a photo of 1333 x 2000 or 1500 x 2000 works fine, everything larger too, everything smaller may become problematic at final edit). Files that are too small are no use to me so please take that into account.

Also, be mindful of quality, I cannot stress this enough!

ONLY submit pieces you have the right to submit. If someone complains about copyright infringement over a piece you've submitted I will send these people to you. This is YOUR responsibility and you will be held accountable in an infringement case.

As far as the **spelling** is concerned, we do NOT allow text speech, texts written like you speak or things filled with purposefully bad spelling. Everyone makes mistakes and that's not an issue, hopefully those mistakes will be caught during the proofreading (not everything gets caught though; we're all only human after all).

That aside, everyone can operate a spell check I'm sure, please do that before submitting an article. It gets rid of the more obvious mistakes and makes life easier for proof readers and editor alike. It's just a matter of common courtesy.

About **photography and art**: I am aware that not everyone is equally talented. It is in no way so that one needs to have some kind of art degree to be allowed to submit to the magazine. We may not expect a degree, but we do, however, expect a certain quality. It doesn't matter that you don't have professional materials, just do your very best to submit things that are presentable.

NEXT EDITION

Our next edition will be BCM # 14,
spanning the months
September and October 2013.
As is tradition, it'll be our
Halloween edition!

Fashion

Style Spotlight: Halloween J-fashion
Halloween fashion feature

We are still looking for photo submission for this feature.
So if you have a good quality high resolution of yourself wearing
a Halloween (inspired) J-fashion photo, please don't hesitate to
send it in! Any J-fashion style goes!

BBC Sherlock fashion feature

Sherlock is back in November and we are dedicating a feature to
the show! Same thing as with the Halloween feature!

And more!



J-MUSIC CORNER

CD reviews

Concert reviews

Interviews with

my way my love
Tokami
Ghost Harlem
ELEANOR
and more!



Lifestyle

Event reviews

Belgian Cupcakes Lolita fashion summer meets

Japan Expo

Comic Con Paris

Angelic Pretty Tea Party in Paris

La Convention Lolita

and several more!

A Belgian's Adventure in Japan

And much, much more!

If you want to be featured in any of our outfit snaps,
send in a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion (any style allowed),
or come pose for us if you see a photographer of BCM at an event
and you may very well see yourself in the next Snap!



And more...

Greeting card with art by Annso

Exclusive art by Margot Van Malderen!





Toshiki of Pan-d-ra, live at Birth Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan on April 25 2013
Photo by Helcanen (www.helcanen.be)